



Brentwood Residents Revere Retiring Teacher Jacquie Martin

By Polly L. Knowlton Cockett

Mrs. Martin is retiring! How can this be? Our community and Simon Fraser School have benefited tremendously from the dedication, love, high standards, enthusiasm, humor, craziness, intelligence, and generosity of a truly unique and extraordinary teacher.

Here are a few words from your neighbors about a beloved teacher and local icon:

"This charismatic teacher, with the zoo in her classroom and pickled creatures on her shelves, always amazed me... More than a teacher, she was and still is a mentor who inspired me to never stop pushing myself beyond any limit to achieve any goal." Kaitlin Marasco, former student

"Jacque's enthusiasm for science is contagious and she has provided her students with a strong understanding of the skills and knowledge, required to be a scientifically literate person. She has encouraged her students to participate in the Calgary Youth Science Fair on an annual basis and many of these students have won major awards at the local and national level." Terry Allen, CYSF, and former Principal of Sir Winston Churchill High School

"Mrs. Martin was probably the coolest teacher in the school, and her classroom became a common lunchtime hangout for me. There were waitlists for who could take care of her animals for long weekends, and parents fought tooth and nail to get their child into her class. When it came to assignments and homework, I did hers first, and the question became not 'is this good enough to pass' but 'will Mrs. Martin like this.'" Grayson Cockett, former student

"On my first day of class with Mrs. Martin, she gave me red licorice, simply because my brother had been in her class. Good first impressions! She was a great teacher to me through junior high, high school, and beyond... (to infinity)!" Rowan Cockett, former student

"The first day I met MM... was before I even went to her school. She looked over some science work I showed her, said she was impressed, gave me some pointers,

loaded me up with candy, and sent me on my way. I left that day happy and eager to learn more. This is one of her talents: helping people want to learn." Audrey Lane Cockett, former student

"There was only one teacher that I went back to visit on a regular basis as a teenager and as an adult to show off my newborn son, Eric. Mrs. Martin had said at that time I was the only student to come back and nurse an infant in her class, though many other mammals have nursed in that classroom over the years... Now, 12 years later Eric is at Simon Fraser in Grade 7 and I am very disappointed he won't have the same wonderful experiences that I did." Debbie Hall (nee Royer), SFJH student 1983-1985, parent 2007/08

"One of my earliest recollections of "Mrs. Martin" was a late September family camping trip in 1998. Our oldest son, Rod, had brought along his Lab Equipment and Safety booklet from his grade 7 Science class. I was amazed at the number of hours around the campfire that were dedicated to memorizing every piece of lab equipment and each safety rule... That was the beginning of my admiration for an exceptional teacher that would, over the years, 'inspire' many hundreds of students to aim high, achieve success in many areas of study as well as set standards for learning and personal successes that have served them so very well into their graduate years and beyond." Margaret Ranson Leland

"I know Jacquie (pronounced "Jackie")

best through the Calgary Science Network's annual School Essay Contest... Specific essay topics were assigned and teachers were asked to submit only the three or four best from each class//Year after year, a Jacquie Martin's Simon Fraser Grade 8 student took top honours and 2nd and 3rd places usually went to classmates." Ward Neale, CSN, and retired geology professor

From Gardening Club to Christmas Hampers, and Future Vets to Operation Minerva, from baby powdering students' hair on their birthdays to offering Extra Help, from writing new science textbooks for students all over western Canada to writing special letters to former students years after they had graduated, Mrs. Martin always puts her students before anything else. I have my own cherished memory from a few years ago when I started a course in education at the University of Calgary, and was especially thrilled to find a familiar face in the class. Yes, Mrs. Martin was sometimes a student too! But she could very easily have taught this particular course, entitled: Inspired Leadership!

Jacquie Martin's Retirement Celebration

A celebration will be held May 22nd from 7:00 to 7:00 pm at the Al-Ahzar Temple, 5225 101st Street NW. Cost: \$20; Cash Bar: Guests must be 18 years or older. Cheques may be made payable to Simon Fraser School. RSVP by March 31st to Bonnie Barnett at 777-7290 or BLBarnett@cbe.ab.ca.

